

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 2, 1973

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 19 in which you again expressed your appreciation for American assistance and your interest in medical treatment at Dr. Cooper's clinic in New York City.

I very much understand your desire for a medical visit to the United States and accept your judgment that it is necessary. While the ultimate decision on this matter must rest with your physicians in New York, you can be sure that we will provide whatever assistance is necessary when your plans are completed. I suggest that you keep Ambassador Swank abreast of your plans so that we can take the necessary action here.

I have followed with great care developments in the Khmer Republic over the past months. I commend you on the wisdom of your decisions to broaden your government and to allow a group of able men to assist you in guiding the destiny of your people. In this, you have again displayed the selflessness and sense of duty which marks you as the Republic's foremost patriot. I am fully confident that the new foundation you have established will bring about further improvement in administrative and military performance. I also trust that in your absence, the members of the High Council will work together harmoniously for the benefit of all and will fully carry out reforms which will present you with a strengthened Republic upon your return.

I, of course, would look forward to a brief meeting with you following your plans for treatment in New York. I trust that my schedule -- while being very crowded this

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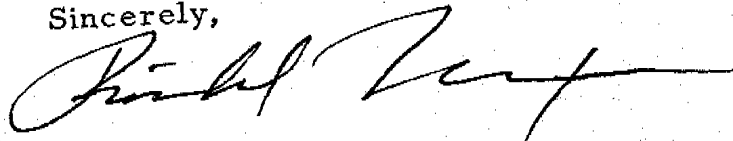
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summer -- will allow a visit with you and suggest that further details be worked out after your arrival.

In closing, let me again express my respect for your leadership in the past, most difficult months and my deep hope that a lasting peace can soon be attained in your country.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



His Excellency
Marshal of the Khmer Armies
Lon Nol
President of the Khmer Republic
Phnom Penh

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET/SENSITIVE

ACTION

June 2, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER/s/
SUBJECT: Reply to President Lon Nol

Lon Nol has written you to inform you of his desire to undergo medical treatment in the near future at St. Barnabas Hospital in New York City (Tab B). He is sending his personal physician to consult with Dr. Cooper, a neurosurgeon at this hospital, about plans for surgery to relieve a partial paralysis which resulted from his stroke in 1971. Lon Nol requested your assistance on arranging his admission into the hospital and for an operation by Dr. Cooper. He also indicated a desire to meet briefly and discreetly with you following his treatment but left this decision entirely at your discretion.

We believe that there are no major political or military obstacles to Lon Nol's departure from Cambodia and note that his visit could assist us in arranging for internal negotiations in Cambodia. Also, we see no unmanageable problem in a brief meeting between you and Lon Nol on an unspecified date prior to his return.

Accordingly, we have prepared a reply at Tab A which indicates a favorable attitude towards the visit (provided his New York physician agrees) and a discreet meeting before his return to Cambodia. Dave Gergen has seen and concurs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

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